(f) Government are convinced that all outstanding issues with Pakistan could be resolved peacefully and through negotiations. Government have, in this sprit, repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent period our readiness to hold talks, formally or informally. We are disappointed that a positive response is not available so far from Pakistan. We would pursue our proposal of a constructive dialogue with Pakistan at every opportunity.

Nuclear Test by China

46. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has conducted its third nuclear test recently even having signd the NPT some years back; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto particularly in the context of building up nuclear arsenals in the neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has consistently advocated the urgent need for a universal Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It remains our hope that all nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states can work together to negotiate such a treaty. India considers a CTBT an integral part of its proposals for nuclear disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-world.

Options given by Pakistan to Resolve Kashmir Issue

47. SYED SIBTEY RAZI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 24th November, 1994 under the caption "Pakistan has six different ways of solving Kashmir issue"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen the news item in the "Indian Express" of November 24, 1994 and subsequent press reports of clarificatory statements and denials by Pak officials.

(b) Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan its readiness to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries, including differences relating to J & K, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the ramework of the Simla Agreement.

Land Route to Gulf Countries via Pakistan

48. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land-route to Gulf countries via Pakistan is not being opened due to lack of political will, that is having adverse bearing on economy of the country; and

(b) if so, whether that will be opened and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

UN-Diplomatic Role by Indian Ambassador in Nepal

49. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn into the allegation that our Ambassador in Nepal had played partisan role in the recent general elections in that country;